

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04390 071929Z

66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DLOS-06 SCI-06 DRC-01

/169 W

----- 058452

R 071800Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2850

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN PBOR NU

SUBJECT: SOMOZA DENIES CONNECTION WITH HUGHES MARINE
OPERATION

1. NOVEMBER 4 LATIN AMERICAN EDITION OF MIAMI HERALD
CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLE FROM LONDON OBSERVER BY
CHARLES FOLEY ALLEGING THAT THE REAL REASON FOR
EXTENDED VISIT IN NICARAGUA LAST YEAR OF HOWARD
HUGHES WAS TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL SOMOZA
ON THE EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED OFF THE COAST OF
NICARAGUA. ARTICLE LEFT STRONG IMPRESSION THAT
HUGHES INTERESTS ARE CONDUCTING SUCH OPERATIONS IN
NICARAGUAN WATERS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. GENERAL SOMOZA CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE OF
INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES NOVEMBER
5 TO DENY THE REPORT, WHICH HE CALLED "A LIE." HE
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 04390 071929Z

SAID, "I HAVE NO AGREEMENT WITH HUGHES TO MINE THE

SEABED WHICH IS GOVERNED BY AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS." SOMOZA ADDED THAT HE HAD NEVER SPOKEN WITH HUGHES ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

3. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, SOMOZA SHOWED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION OVER THE STORY AND SAID HE WANTED THE US TO KNOW THAT HE HAD NO AGREEMENT WITH HUGHES AND HAD NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON SEABED USE.
SHELTON

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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